WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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      1. An apparatus for monitoring devices connected to a network, comprising:

      a relationship object maintaining part maintaining dependent information for each

10   relationship between devices connected to the network, said dependent information indicating how one device influences another device when the one device causes a problem;

      an event table maintaining part

15   maintaining device information, which identifies a device in the network, indicated by an event received from the device;

      an event collecting part collecting each event received from the devices and controlling the

20   event table maintaining part to maintain the device information when the event indicates a problem; and

      a problem alarm notifying part determining, based on the dependent information maintained by the relationship object maintaining part, whether or not

25   each of the devices identified by the device information maintained by the event table maintaining part influences another device by the problem, and specifying which device is causing the problem in accordance with a result of the determination.

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      2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,

35   wherein said dependent information is defined for each of a first direction from said one device to said another device and a second direction from said

another device to said one device by dependent
information between the devices.

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3. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
wherein:

said device information maintained by said
event table maintaining part includes a suppressing
flag for suppressing said problem alarm notifying
part from specifying that the device corresponding to
said device information is causing the problem; and

said problem alarm notifying part
determines whether or not the event table maintaining
part is to maintain the device information of another
event received from another device indicated by the
dependent information corresponding to said event
received from the device, and controls a suppressing
flag based on the dependent information in accordance
with a result of the determination, so that said
problem alarm notifying part specifying which device
is causing the problem.

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4. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
wherein when the event received from the device
indicates to change or add the dependent information,
said event collecting part controls said relationship
object maintaining part to change or add the
dependent information in accordance with a
predetermined rule for defining the dependent
information based on the relationship between two
types of the devices.

5. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a management object maintaining part maintaining configuration information related to a configuration of each of the devices to be managed,
wherein when the event received from the device indicates to change or add the configuration information, said event collecting part controls said management object maintaining part to change or add the configuration information indicated by the event, and controls said relationship object maintaining part to change or add the dependent information related to devices connected to the device that sent the event.

6. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
a management object maintaining part maintaining configuration information related to a configuration of each of the devices to be managed;
a management object displaying part representing each configuration information maintained by said management object maintaining part as a clickable image on a display unit; and
a relationship displaying part displaying several selectable types of the dependent information to define the dependent information between the devices corresponding to the clickable images when at least two clickable images are clicked,
wherein the dependent information defined by said relationship displaying part is maintained by said relationship object maintaining part.

7. A method for managing a network, comprising the steps of:

(a) maintaining dependent information for each relationship between devices connected to the network, said dependent information indicating how one device influences another device when the one device causes a problem;

(b) maintaining device information, which identifies a device in the network, indicated by an event received from the device;

(c) collecting each event received from the devices and executing the step (b) to maintain the device information when the event indicates a problem; and

(d) determining, based on the dependent information maintained in the step (a), whether or not each of the devices identified by the device information maintained in the step (b) influences another device by the problem, and specifying which device is causing the problem in accordance with a result of the determination.

8. The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said dependent information is defined for each of a first direction from said one device to said another device and from a second direction said another device to said one device by dependent information between the devices.

9. The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein:

said device information maintained in said step (b) includes a suppressing flag for suppressing from specifying that the device corresponding to said device information is causing the problem; and

said step (d) determines whether or not the device information of another event, which is received from another device indicated by the dependent information corresponding to said event received from the device, is to be maintained in the step (b), and controls said suppressing flag based on the dependent information in accordance with a result of the determination, so that said step (d) specifies which device is causing the problem.

10. The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein when the event received from the device indicates to change or add the dependent information, said step (c) executes said (a) to change or add the dependent information in accordance with a predetermined rule for defining the dependent information based on the relationship between two types of the devices.

11. The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising a step of (e) maintaining configuration information related to a configuration of each of the devices to be managed,

wherein when the event received from the device indicates to change or add the configuration information, said step (c) executes said step (e) to change or add the configuration information indicated by the event, and executes said step (a) to change or add the dependent information related to devices connected to the device that sent the event.

12. The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising steps of:

(e) maintaining configuration information related to a configuration of each of the devices to be managed;

(f) representing each configuration information maintained in said step (e) as a clickable image on a display unit; and

(g) displaying several selectable types of the dependent information to define the dependent information between the devices corresponding to the clickable images when at least two clickable images are clicked,

wherein the dependent information defined in said step (g) is maintained in said step (a).

13. A computer-readable recording medium having a program recorded thereon for causing a computer to manage a network, comprising the codes of:

(a) maintaining dependent information for each relationship between devices connected to the network, said dependent information indicating how

one device influences another device when the one
device causes a problem;

(b) maintaining device information, which
identifies a device in the network, indicated by an
5 event received from the device;

(c) collecting each event received from
the devices and executing the code (b) to maintain
the device information when the event indicates a
problem; and

10 (d) determining, based on the dependent
information maintained by the code (a), whether or
not each of the devices identified by the device
information maintained by the code (b) influences
another device by the problem, and specifying which
15 device is causing the problem in accordance with a
result of the determination.

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14. The computer-readable recording
medium as claimed in claim 13, wherein said dependent
information is defined for each of a first direction
from said one device to said another device and from
25 a second direction said another device to said one
device by dependent information between the devices.

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15. The computer-readable recording
medium as claimed in claim 13, wherein:
said device information maintained by said
code (b) includes a suppressing flag for suppressing
35 from specifying that the device corresponding to said
device information is causing the problem; and
said code (d) determines whether or not

the device information of another event, which is
received from another device indicated by the
dependent information corresponding to said event
received from the device, is to be maintained by the
5   code (b), and controls said suppressing flag based on
the dependent information in accordance with a result
of the determination, so that said code (d) specifies
which device is causing the problem.

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        16. The computer-readable recording
medium as claimed in claim 13, wherein when the event
15   received from the device indicates to change or add
the dependent information, said code (c) executes
said (a) to change or add the dependent information
in accordance with a predetermined rule for defining
the dependent information based on the relationship
20   between two types of the devices.

25   17. The computer-readable recording
medium as claimed in claim 13, further comprising the
code of (e) maintaining configuration information
related to a configuration of each of the devices to
be managed,
30   wherein when the event received from the
device indicates to change or add the configuration
information, said code (c) executes said code (e) to
change or add the configuration information indicated
by the event, and executes said code (a) to change or
35   add the dependent information related to devices
connected to the device that sent the event.

18. The computer-readable recording medium as claimed in claim 13, further comprising the codes of:

(e) maintaining configuration information related to a configuration of each of the devices to be managed;

(f) representing each configuration information maintained by said code (e) as a clickable image on a display unit; and

(g) displaying several selectable types of the dependent information to define the dependent information between the devices corresponding to the clickable images when at least two clickable images are clicked,

wherein the dependent information defined by said code (g) is maintained by said code (a).